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FAMILY FACTORS AS PREDICTORS OF VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR AMONG IN-SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS IN IBADAN NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study examined family factors as predictors of violent behaviour of in-school adolescents in Ibadan North Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. Descriptive survey research design was employed in the study. A sample of 277 respondents was selected using stratified random sampling. Three research hypotheses were tested. Self-developed and validated questionnaire with reliability co-efficient of 0.71 was used to collect data. Data were analysed with the use of inferential statistics of regression at 0.05 level of significance. The results showed that joint effect of family factors (career family, family financial difficulty and violent family) on in-school adolescents' violent behaviour was significant ($F_{(3,273)}=119.181$; $R=0.753$; $R^2=0.567$; $R. Adj = 0.562$; $P<.05$). Thus, it was concluded that violent behaviour is a major cause of injuries and death among adolescents. Among others, it was recommended that poverty alleviation programme, responsible parenthood as well as family life education should be provided by government.

Keywords: family, adolescents, violent behaviour, family life education

Introduction

Violence is a public health problem and threat to societal peace and development. It is a major cause of injuries and death worldwide. The family is a basic unit of social life, forming a link between the individual and the society. The family exerts much influence on the society through the process of socialization. It is the microcosm of the society and by implication whatever problems that exist in the society can also be found in the family. Therefore, measures for solving societal problem must begin with family. Adolescence is a period in human growth and development that occurs after childhood and before adulthood from ages 10 to 19.(WHO, 2002). The individual at the stage continues to grow into maturity physically, mentally and socially. Adolescence is a period of self-awareness

characterized by search for self-identity, socioeconomic independence and accomplishment. Cole and Cole (1992) identified adolescence as a period of heightened instability and emotional conflict brought about by biological maturation. Adolescence is traditionally regarded as the period of storm and stress. The adolescents in an effort to get established in the society and achieve independence become vulnerable to violence.

Violent behaviour in adolescence include a wide range of behaviour such as explosive temper tantrums, physical aggression, fighting, threats or attempts to hurt others (including homicidal thoughts), use of weapons, cruelty toward animals, fire setting, intentional destruction of property and vandalism. (AACA, 2014). Moore (2001), Smith (2004) and Eisenberg and Aalsma (2005) identified verbal violence and physical violence as two types of violent behaviour. They described verbal violence as attacking, threatening, insulting, taunting, slogging, mocking, bawling and discriminatory and destructive rumours and physical violence as pushing, shaking, boxing, kicking, scratching, burning, assaulting or attacking with objects including weapons.

Adolescent violence is a visibly significant public health problem with negative consequence on the individual, the family and the society at large. In a nationwide survey of high school students in Nigeria, about 6% reported not going to school on one or more days in the 30 days preceding the survey because they are unsafe at school (CDC, 2010). Also nearly 700,000 young people ages 10-24 are treated in emergency department each year for injuries sustained due to violence related assaults (CDC, 2000). In addition to injuries and death, youth violence constitutes a waste of resources by increasing cost of health care, hindering of productivity and disrupting social activities. Violence is a threat to the country's nascent democracy and national development.

The home environment in which a child is brought up is very important in shaping the individual attitude and behaviour. Dekovic, Janssens and Van As (2003) were of the opinion that quality of relationship between a child and parent together with parenting skills are central area of importance in shaping a child's behaviour. AACAP (2014) identified previous aggressive or violent behaviour, being the victim of physical abuse or sexual abuse, exposure to violence in the home and/or community, genetic (family/hereditary) factors, exposure to violence in media (television and movies), use of drugs and/or alcohol, presence of firearms in home, combination of stressful family socioeconomic factors (poverty, severe deprivation, marital break-up, single parenting, unemployment, loss of support from extended family) and brain damage from head injury as factors that increase

violent behaviour in contemporary society. Family factors influence to a large extent the violent behaviour among adolescents. This is because children spend a considerable number of hours per day at home. Also, the happenings at home from the parents form the basis for an individual behaviour. The achievement of societal peace must begin with the family hence, the need for this study.

The study was based on behavioural reasoning theory which states that reason serves as an important linkage between peoples' global motive (attitudes, subjective norms, perceived control and intention) and behaviour (Westaby, 2005). The theory helps an individual to defend and justify himself or herself for any violent behavior exhibited, thus retaining his or her self worth. Ribcaud and Fisher (2010) classified reasoning into two types: moral reasoning and situational reasoning. Moral reasoning acts as intermediary between thinking and acting. It may hinder or support a particular behaviour. Hurd, Zimmerman and Reischl (2011) suggested that good parental role model that makes students learn and develop positive moral reasoning and other good behaviour should be sought. Situational reasoning is described as a situation where an individual believed in rules and regulation but occasional breaks them due to the situation he or she finds himself or herself at that moment. Amarsphibal, Rujipak and Payakkak (2013) concluded from a study that situational reasoning has positive relationship with violent behaviour. There is always a reason for any antisocial behaviour exhibited by an individual in the society. It follows then that adolescent violent behaviour has certain underlying factors.

Families are faced with many challenges of which coping with present economic realities is one. This has led to poor attention to child care, poor monitoring of children behaviour, poor family functioning, single parenting, poor parental care for children, inconsistent disciplinary acts, child abuse and neglect including domestic violence. Children have responded to the happenings at home by taking to violent acts. Mohammed in Hammad and Adebukola (2008) remarked that one of the greatest social health problems facing human development in the 21st century Nigeria is the menace of youth violence. Violent acts that include cullism, rape, sexual harassment, militancy, theft and murder among others now characterize school environment. Adolescent violent behaviour result into injuries, emotional ill-health and death. Previous studies focused on environmental factors in the causation of violent behaviour among youths. This study examined family factors as predictors of violent behaviour among in-school adolescents in Ibadan North Local Government area of Oyo State, Nigeria.

Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was used for the study. A descriptive research design identifies problem, makes comparison, evaluates and collects factual detailed information that describes the existing phenomena of the population (Thomas and Nelson, 2001). The population comprised all adolescents in secondary schools in Ibadan North Local Government area of Oyo State, Nigeria. Simple random selection was used to select ten (10) schools from the total number of schools in the local Government area. Twenty-eight students whose ages fall within 10-19 years in senior secondary classes from each schools were identified as participants through cluster sampling technique. A total of two hundred and eighty students were selected using stratified random sampling. However, two hundred and seventy seven (277) questionnaire forms were successfully retrieved. A self developed questionnaire served as the instrument for the study. Section A of the questionnaire recorded demographic characteristics of the respondents: age, gender, parent's marital status and parent's marital relationship. Section B recorded family factors as predictors of violent behaviour. It was in a 4-point modified Likert format using (1) Strongly agree (SA), (2) Agree (A), (3) Disagree (D) and 4 Strongly Disagree (SD). The questionnaire was validated by experts in the field of Health Education as the reliability co-efficient of the instrument was 0.71. The data collected from this study were analysed with the use of regression analysis.

Results

H01: There is no significant relationship among the family factors and adolescents' violent behaviour.

Table 1: Mean and standard deviation and correlation among the variables

Variables	Mean	SD	1	2	3	4
Adolescent violent behaviour	23.83	6.049	1.00			
Career family	6.30	2.070	.672*	1.00		
Family financial difficulty	6.43	2.143	.616*	.588*	1.00	
Violent family	6.28	2.000	.606	.515*	.617*	1.00

Table one shows mean, standard deviation and correlation among the variables . It was observed that the independent variables: career family ($r=.672$, $p<.05$), family financial difficulty ($r=.588$, $p<.05$) and violent family ($r=.617$, $p<.05$) correlated positively with adolescents' violent behaviour in the study. This implies that all the variables identified are significant factors of violent behaviour

among in-school adolescents in Ibadan North Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. Therefore, the stated hypotheses that there is no significant relationship among the family factors and in-school adolescents' violent behaviour is rejected.

H02: There is no significant joint effect of career family, family financial difficulty and violent family on violent behaviour among in-school adolescents.

Table 2: ANOVA result on the independent variables (career family, family financial difficulty and violent family) and in-school violent behaviour

R = .753

R Square = .567

Adjusted R Square = .562

Standard error of the estimate = 4.002

Model	Sum of square	DF	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	5726.181	3	1908.727	119.181	.000
Residual	4372.180	273	16.015		
Total	10098.361	276			

The table two shows that there was significant joint contribution of the independent variables to adolescent violent behavior $R = .753$, $P < .05$. The table further revealed that 56.2% ($\text{Adj } R^2 = 0.562$) variance in the perception of violent behaviour among the adolescents was due to prediction of career family, family financial difficulty and violent family. The result of the ANOVA from regression analysis also shows joint effect of the independent variables on violent behaviour $F_{(3,273)} = 119.181$, $P < .05$. This implies that the independent variables observed actually predicted in-school adolescent violent behaviour. Therefore, the stated hypothesis that there is no significant joint effect of career family, family financial difficulty and violent family on in school adolescent violent behaviour is rejected.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant independent effect of career family, family financial difficulty and violent family on adolescents' violent behaviour.

Table 3: Relative contribution of the independent variables

Model	Unstandardized coefficients		Standardized coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std Error	Beta β		
Constant	7.405	.907		8.162	.000
Career family	1.206	.148	.413	8.138	.000
Family financial difficulty	.596	.156	.211	3.826	.000
Violent family	.796	.158	.263	5.046	.000

Table three shows relative contribution of the independent variables to perception of violent behaviour among in-school adolescents. The contribution of each of the independent variables is presented in order of magnitude as follows: career family ($\beta = .413$, $t = 8.138$, $P < 0.05$, violent family $\beta = .263$; $t = 5.046$, $P < 0.05$ and family financial difficulty $\beta = .211$; $t = 3.826$; $P < 0.05$ had relative contribution to violent behaviour among the study adolescents. This implies that each of the independent variables predicted violent behaviour. Therefore, the hypothesis which says that there is no significant independent effect of career family, family financial difficulty and violent family on violent behaviour among in-school adolescents is rejected.

Discussion of the findings

The three factors that predicted in-school adolescent violent behaviour are career family, family financial difficulty and violent family. This implied that the identified factors have very strong affinities with the dependent variables to the extent of predicting it. Their affinity is evidenced as a result of enormity of their contribution to violent behaviour. The study revealed that career family significantly contributed to in-school adolescent violent behaviour. This finding is in agreement with the result of a study of Wells and Rankin (1998) who reported that poor relationships with parents, lack of supervision, inconsistent discipline and lack of warmth were experienced by bullies. Career family is one in which couples are professionals in their area of specialization, who always have tight work schedules and hardly have time to take care of their children. This family may provide adequate funds to their children but unable to give adequately needed affection, care and guidance. Adolescents from such family are usually left in school hostels not visited. The inability of adolescent to have proper attention from parents can be frustrating hence, they take to violent behaviour. Amarophibal, Rujipak and Payakkakom (2013) found that emotional attachment to family as well as parent's good role model have negative relationship with violent behaviour.

This study identified family financial difficulty as significant contributor to in-school adolescent violent behaviour. Sampson and Laub (1990) found relationship among poverty, living in an impoverished area and antisocial behaviour. The present harsh economic reality has forced family members especially adolescents to engage in criminal means of survival. Parents who cannot provide food, clothes and upkeep money for their children will find it difficult to monitor their behaviour. Adolescents from poor families are more likely to drop-

out from school and take to drug abuse, prostitution, robbery, theft and other antisocial activities.

In this study violent family contributed significantly to in-school adolescent violent behaviour. The findings is in line with the result of studies of Nofziger and Kurtz (2005), Maschi and Bradley (2008) in which it was revealed that exposure to family violence affected individual behaviours and offenses in two ways, firstly through witnessing domestic violence and secondly through being victim of violence. Also, violent behaviour can be caused by hereditary and environmental factors. This is because adolescents whose parents are violent will take after them; also adolescents raised in a violent ridden environment will be involved in antisocial activities.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Family factors are crucial to the development of behaviour of an individual. This is because adolescents, during the process of child rearing by parents have learnt and formulated behaviour to be adopted. Activities in the family to great extent influence the behaviour of an individual. Therefore, violent behaviour among in-school adolescents can be traced to the activities in the home, otherwise called family life. Violent behaviour among in-school adolescents can lead to destruction of lives and property as it has devastating effects on national development. Therefore efforts must be made to stem the tide of increased rate of the anti-social behaviours in our society. It is along this line that the following recommendations are made.

1. Parents should endeavour to monitor the activities of their adolescent boys and girls. They should devote time, inspite of their tight schedules for the care of their children. Provision should be made for the needed materials and money for upkeep of the adolescents.
2. Poverty alleviation programme of governments at all levels should be intensified. Education, health care services, housing and food costs must be within the reach of common person in the society. In this way, parents will be able to make adequate provision for their home.
3. Parents should lay good examples for the adolescents to follow. In other words, they should be role models. They should always respond promptly to the needs and aspirations of their family members.
4. Parents must ensure that films that are violent in nature are not brought to watch at home. Also, government must control the activities of

- media house to ensure that programmes on radio and televisions are violence free
5. Public enlightenment programme in the form of family life education should be embarked upon by government through print and electronic media.
 6. Health education in which family life education will feature prominently should be taught in schools.

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